

Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5459

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS, EG, US

SUBJECT: TWO NEW ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS IN SINAI

REF: STATE 065382

1. I CALLED ON AVINERI THIS MORNING AND MADE THE POINTS
IN REFTEL. HIS AIDE, MOSHE ARAD, AND MOSHE RAVIV WERE
ALSO PRESENT.

2. AVINERI HEARD ME OUT AND PROMISED THAT WE WOULD GET
THE PARTICULARS WE REQUESTED ABOUT THE TWO SINAI SETTLE-
MENTS. HE ADDED THAT HE WAS AWARE THAT THE SETTLEMENTS
SUBJECT HAD BEEN DISCUSSED DURING THE PRIME MINISTER'S
VISIT AND SAID THAT MY DEMARCHE WOULD BE "PASSED ON."

3. HE THEN SAID THAT, WITHOUT PREJUDICING THEIR
RESPONSE, HE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A FEW PRELIMINARY
OBSERVATIONS. THE FIRST WAS THAT THE GOI'S POLICY ON
SETTLEMENTS, WHICH IS NOT NEW, IS CARRIED OUT WITHIN
WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS "VERY LIMITED PARAMETERS." IT
WAS SOLELY CONSTRUED IN TERMS OF SECURITY AND DEFENSIBLE
BORDERS. BECAUSE THIS WAS THE CASE, HE CONTINUED,
THE GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN A LOT OF FLAK FROM ISRAELI
GROUPS WHO WISHED TO ESTABLISH SETTLEMENTS AT PLACES

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OF THEIR CHOOSING. IT WAS PAINFUL TO TELL JEWS THERE
ARE PLACES THEY CANNOT LIVE IN THE HISTORIC LAND OF
ISRAEL. THE ARMY HAD BEEN USED TO PREVENT SETTLEMENTS
AND THIS PROVOKED CONFRONTATIONS, AS WE KNEW.

4. AVINERI'S SECOND POINT WAS THAT THE PARAMETERS HE
HAD MENTIONED WERE PART OF THE LABOR PARTY PLATFORM AND

OF POLICY TO WHICH THE GOVERNMENT IS PUBLICLY COMMITTED.
HE BELIEVED THAT TWO SINAI SETTLEMENTS I HAD MENTIONED
WERE WITHIN THE LIMITS SET BY THE GOVERNMENT.

5. HE THEN COMMENTED THAT OF COURSE OUR UNHAPPINESS
WITH ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS BEYOND THE GREEN LINE HAD BEEN
MADE KNOWN TO THE GOI SEVERAL TIMES. "OUR ANSWERS ARE
ALWAYS THE SAME," HE ADDED.

6. AS TO THE EGYPTIANS, AVINERI SAID HE THOUGHT THEIR
UN INITIATIVE HAD BEEN TAKEN COMPLETELY INDEPENDENTLY
OF ISRAEL'S SETTLEMENT POLICY OR OF WHAT IT WAS DOING
IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. THESE HAD MERELY BEEN
"CONVENIENT PRETEXTS." CERTAINLY ISRAEL DOES NOT
SEE THEM AS IMPEDIMENTS TO PEACE, NOR DOES IT BELIEVE
THAT ITS SETTLEMENTS POLICY IS THE REASON THERE HAS NOT
BEEN PEACE FOR 28 YEARS (SIC). ON THE OTHER HAND,
ISRAELI HAVE NOTED THE ARAB BOYCOTT, THE RAISING OF
THE PROPAGANDA LEVEL BY THE EGYPTIANS, AND SADAT'S
"UNHELPFUL" STATEMENT AT THE OPENING OF THE PNC.
THERE HAD BEEN INTERNAL GOI DISCUSSIONS WHETHER THESE
HAD VIOLATED THE "SPIRIT OF SINAI II," BUT IT HAD BEEN
DECIDED NOT TO RAISE THEM FORMALLY WITH US AT THIS TIME
SO AS NOT TO COMPLICATE OUR EFFORTS.

7. WHEN AVINERI HAD COMPLETED THESE "PRELIMINARY
REMARKS" I SAID THEY WERE AWARE THAT WE DID NOT ACCEPT
THEIR POSITION ON THE SETTLEMENTS ISSUE AND I WOULD
RETURN AT ANY TIME TO GET THE PROMISED PARTICULARS OF
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THE TWO SETTLEMENTS ANNOUNCED MARCY 11.

8. COMMENT: LITTLE GIVE WAS EVIDENT ON THIS ISSUE, NOR
SHOULD ANY HAVE REALISTICALLY BEEN EXPECTED SEVEN WEEKS
BEFORE THE ELECTION. NEVERTHELESS THIS APPROACH WAS
USEFUL IN BRINGING HOME TO THE GOI THAT WE ARE NOT
OVERLOOKING OUR CONDONING BY OUR SILENCE WHAT THEY ARE
DOING IN REGARD TO SETTLEMENTS.
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